

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

1. (unchanged) An apparatus for decreasing the propagation delay time of an electrical signal transmitted from a source along a conductor in a circuit, the apparatus comprising:

a first conductor having a length extending from a first area of the circuit to a second area of the circuit and for carrying an electrical signal, the first conductor having a first end electrically coupled to the source capable of providing the electrical signal and a second end electrically coupled to a destination;

a second conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the second area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially parallel and along the first conductor, the second conductor having a first end electrically coupled in the first area of the circuit to the source and having a second end unconnected in the second area of the circuit; and

a third conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the second area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially parallel and along the first conductor, the third conductor having a first end electrically coupled in the first area to the source and having a second end unconnected in the second area of the circuit, and wherein the second and third conductors reduce the effective capacitance of the first conductor thereby increasing the speed of the electrical signal when transmitted along the first conductor.

3. (unchanged) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor are located substantially in a first plane.

4. (unchanged) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the first conductor and the second conductor and the third conductor each comprise metal.

5. (unchanged) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 3 further comprising a fourth conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the second area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially parallel and along the first conductor, the fourth conductor having a first end electrically coupled in the first area to the source and having a second end unconnected in the second area of the circuit.

6. (amended) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the fourth conductor is located substantially in a second plane.

8. (unchanged) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor each comprise metal.

1 9. (amended) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the electrical signal comprises
2 a clock signal, and wherein the apparatus reduces the propagation delay of the clock signal
3 when transmitted on the first conductor.

1 10. (unchanged) The apparatus in accordance with Claim wherein the length of the first
2 conductor is greater than about 1000 microns.

11. (unchanged) An electrical conductor for increasing the speed of an electrical signal transmitted along the conductor in an integrated circuit, the conductor comprising:

a first conductor having a first end in a first area of the integrated circuit and a second end in a second area of the integrated circuit, and having a length extending from the first area to the second area;

a second conductor located proximate the first conductor and having a first end in the first area of the integrated circuit and a second end in a second area of the integrated circuit, and extending substantially parallel and along the first conductor from the first area to the second area,

a third conductor located proximate the first conductor and having a first end in the first area of the integrated circuit and a second end in a second area of the integrated circuit, and extending substantially parallel and along the first conductor from the first area to the second area,

first means for electrically coupling the first end of the first conductor to the first end of the second conductor, and wherein the second end of the first conductor and the second end of the second conductor are not electrically coupled in the second area of the integrated circuit; and

second means for electrically coupling the first end of the first conductor to the first end of the third conductor, and wherein the second end of the first conductor and the second end of the third conductor are not electrically coupled in the second area of the integrated circuit.

13. (unchanged) The electrical conductor in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the second
conductor and the third conductor are located substantially in the same plane as the first
conductor.

14. (unchanged) The electrical conductor in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the coupling
of the first conductor to the second conductor and to the third conductor decreases the effective
capacitance of the first conductor thus decreasing the propagation delay time of an electrical
signal when transmitted along the first conductor from the first area to the second area of the
integrated circuit.

16. (unchanged) The electrical conductor in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the length of
the first conductor is greater than about 1000 microns.

1, 17. (unchanged) A conductor for transmitting a clocking signal from a first area to a second
2 area of an integrated circuit, the conductor comprising:
3 a first elongated conductive portion having a first end and a second end extending from
4 the first area to the second area,
5 a second elongated conductive portion having a first end and a second end and located
6 proximate and space apart from the first conductive portion and extending substantially parallel
7 with the first conductive portion from the first area to the second area,
8 a third elongated conductive portion having a first end and a second end and located
9 proximate and space apart from the first conductive portion and extending substantially parallel
10 with the first conductive portion from the first area to the second area,
11 means for electrically connecting the first end of the first conductive portion to the first
12 end of the second conductive portion,
13 means for electrically connecting the first end of the first conductive portion to the first
14 end of the third conductive portion,
15 a source located within the first area and coupled to the first ends of the first, second and
16 third conductive portions and capable of generating a clocking signal for transmission on the
17 first conductive portion from the first area to the second area; and

18 wherein the first end of the first conductive portion is connected to a destination in the
19 second area, and the first ends of the second and third conductive portions are unconnected to
20 the destination.

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18. (unchanged) The conductor in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the second conductive
2 portion and the third conductive portion reduce the capacitive effects on the first conductive
3 portion thereby reducing the propagation delay of the clocking signal when transmitted from
4 the first area to the second area.

1 19. (unchanged) The conductor in accordance with Claim 18 wherein the respective length of
2 each of the first conductive portion, the second conductive portion, and the third conductive
3 portion is greater than about 1000 microns.